

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 28539 031232Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 031225Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4819

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PARIS 28539

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, FR

SUBJECT: MEDIATION ROLE FOR FRENCH IN LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 13625

1. WE CONCUR WITH EMBASSY BEIRUT THAT THE FRENCH WOULD WELCOME A U.S. PROPOSAL TO PLAY A MEDIATING ROLE IN LEBANON. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE QUAI HAS BEEN SEARCHING FOR A MEANS TO HELP FULFILL WHAT THE FRENCH CONSIDER TO BE THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THAT COUNTRY -- AND TO MEET GROWING CRITICISM, ESPECIALLY GAULLIST, OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR HAVING FAILED TO DO SO.

2. DURING LAST WEEK'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE, FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CURRENTLY STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING ITS DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY SO THAT LEBANON WOULD RECEIVE THE SUPPORT IT HAS A RIGHT TO EXPECT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. AS SUGGESTED IN PARIS 28136, REFERRAL TO THE UN, WHOSE ACTION MIGHT EXTEND FROM AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES TO SENDING AN INTERNATIONAL PEACE-KEEPING FORCE, IS SEEN HERE AS THE MOST
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LOGICAL NEXT STEP. THE FRENCH BELIEVE THAT POLITICAL

EFFORT MUST BE DIRECTED TOWARDS ESTABLISHING A NEW
REGIME REFLECTING THE CURRENT BALANCE OF FORCES IN
LEBANON RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO REESTABLISH THE OUT-
DATED STATUS QUO ANTE. BRITISH ASSISTANCE IN THE
MEDIATION EFFORT WOULD PROBABLY BE WELCOME IN PARIS.

3. IF THE DEPARTMENT DECIDES TO REQUEST MEDIATION, WE
RECOMMEND THE SUGGESTION BE MADE IN A MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT TO GISCARD.

RUSH

SECRET

NNN

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